

My dear Peter, As you are kind enough to offer
yourself as mediator or midwife upon this occasion,
I hasten to deliver myself of my new reading, though
without much expectation (Diffidence you know is
even the companion of Merit) that M^r Collier will
have the good sense to adopt the bairn when it is
presented to him. Sheer envy, by the Gods! But let
that pass. I am not "brute beast enough" to defraud
myself of a fair chance of immortality, and Posterity
of a valuable suggestion, for such it is in my
humble opinion, because an Editor may be perverse
and obstinate. Let me rather hope that M^r Collier
will at once see the beauty and propriety of the
proposed emendation, and taking possession of it in
his own or the Queen's name - Queen that I mean -
wonder no former editor of Shakspeare should have
had perspicacity enough to discover it. But to the
point. The Passage I allude to is in Macbeth Act 1.
Scene 3. (Page 33 vol. 11 of Malon's Shakspeare 1821)

See over

I will drain him dry as hay:
Sleep shall, neither night nor day,
Hang upon his pent-house lid;
He shall live a man forbid:

The third line in this passage is the one I am anxious to try my ~~edoes~~ critical sagacity upon. True it is, there can be ^{no} mistake about the meaning: that is obvious enough. ~~But~~ ^{But} the figure appears to me forced and inappropriate, the epithet "pent-house" applying rather to the brow which does not want the relaxation of sleep than to the eyelid, ~~as~~ ^{as} a notorious sleeper. Decker & Drayton who are the only Authorities quoted by Malone in support of the present reading evidently apply the term "pent-house" to the eye brow and not to the eye lid. There being in this case then ~~neither~~ ^{neither} of appropriateness, to say nothing, in the metaphor itself, nor even contemporary authority to justify it, I propose a reading almost identical in point of sound, and certainly not worse in point of sense and fitness.

Sleep shall, neither night nor day,
Hang upon his spent eye-lid, &c.

Make this known in the proper quarter the
first time you have or can make an opportunity
and you will for ever oblige, my dear Peter,

Yours very faithfully
Wynfan Jones.

In Campbell's Specimens of the British Poets
what has Dr John Leyden done that he has
been entirely overlooked? He died in 1811, long
before Campbell's compilation appeared; and surely
his Poetical merit was not so scanty as to debar
him from contributing something to a Miscellany
which professedly takes in all, from Shakspeare
down, down, down to Timothy Dwight!

Whitehall Place - January 10th 1843 -

The "Restituta," upon a second inspection, is in half

cloth Boards, faded but not dirty, as I thought
it had been. You may see it at Templeman's in
Regent Street, not far from Argyle Street.

Templeman's